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Date of Deposit: Oct 6, 2005

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. 3046

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S): Davies, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/685,880 GROUP ART UNIT: 3618

FILED: October 14, 2003 EXAMINER: Vanaman, Frank Bennett

SUBJECT: Automatic, Universal Boot Binding For Board Sports

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION MAILED JUNE 6, 2005

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed June 6, 2005, please enter the following amendments and remarks of record.

AMENDMENTS

Please make the following amendments to the Description and Claims as shown on the following sheets:

In the Description:

On page 5, line 17 (next-to-the-last sentence of the first full paragraph), please amend as shown below:

Returning to Figures 1 and 2, the boot, when in use, is further held in place by gate 20, which covers or encloses at least a portion of the front of the boot by extending over the instep or top of the boot. The gate is releasably held in an open position when no boot is in binding 100. Gate 20 is pivotally attached at its base end 20′ to side member 13 and is preferably held open by a catch system comprising catch arm 33 and catch plate 32, as shown in Figure 4. Gate 20 swings in a radius over the instep of the boot. Catch arm 33, which is attached to gate 20 at its base 33′, extends under and catches on catch plate 32 via notch 33‴ near its free end or tip 33″. In the preferred embodiment, the tip 33″ of catch arm 33 extends into the interior of the binding through opening 35 such that it will be contacted by the boot heel when the boot is being placed in the binding. This contact will cause catch arm 33 to be moved downward and away from catch plate 32. Gate 20 is preferably spring-biased to the closed position, shown in Figures 3 and 4. Alternatively, biasing means other than a coiled spring, such as other springs or flexing members. Preferably, disengaging catch arm 33 from catch plate 32 allows optional spring 31 to pivot gate 20 to the closed position. Thus, catch arm 33, catch plate 32, and spring 31 comprise a foot-activated actuator 30 for closing gate 20. In an alternative embodiment, spring 31 may be omitted to eliminate the danger that a user's hand could be accidentally caught by a closing gate–e.g., in an embodiment designed for children. Preferably, there is no connection and ~~not~~ no contact between the boot and catch system once actuator 30 is triggered. Catch arm 33 is preferably made from a resilient, rather than brittle, material so that it will snap into and out of position with catch plate 32 many times during the binding's life.